

Serial no. 10/741, 322
Response to Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007
Page 7

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 09 2007

REMARKS

Applicants carefully considered the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 1-34 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 8, 16 and 25 are amended, claims 1-7, 14 and 18 are canceled and new claims 35-37 have been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 8-13, 15-17, 19-37 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested in light of the above amendments and in view of the arguments herein below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-16 and 18-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Guinibert et al. (US Patent No. 6,968,632), hereinafter Guinibert, or Dunlap (US Patent No. 2,771,766), or Hyman (US Patent No. 2,651,509). Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 7, 14 and 18 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejections to these claims moot.

A prima facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a showing that each limitation of a claim is found in a single reference, practice or device. Applicants submit that Guinibert or Dunlap or Hyman does not teach or otherwise disclose each and every element of independent claims 8, 16 and 25.

Amended claim 8 recites a wash basket for a washing machine. The wash basket includes a housing having an inner wall fabricated by a first process and a plurality of geometric structures fabricated by a second process, the plurality of geometric structures attached to and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall, the geometric structures comprising a separate structure relative to the housing, wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is configured for reducing a residual moisture content of an article contained within the wash basket during a spin cycle.

Serial no. 10/741, 322
Response to Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007
Page 8

Amended claim 16 recites a washing machine. The washing machine includes a cabinet and a wash basket rotatably mounted in the cabinet, the wash basket having a bottom and an inner wall. The washing machine also includes a plurality of geometric structures connected to the inner wall, the geometric structures extending radially inwardly from the inner wall, wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is configured based on at least an operating parameter of the washing machine for increasing a volume of the wash basket and decreasing a residual moisture content of an article contained within the wash basket during a spin cycle.

Amended claim 25 recites an apparatus in a washing machine for extracting liquid from an article when the apparatus is rotated about an axis. The apparatus includes a substantially cylindrical housing having an inner wall defining a height and a geometric structure attachable to the housing. The apparatus also includes means for attaching the geometric structure to the inner wall, wherein the geometric structure is configured to reduce a residual moisture content of the article contained within the washing machine during a spin cycle.

Applicants submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or otherwise suggest each and every element of amended claims 8, 16 and 25. In particular, claims 8, 16 and 25 recite in generally similar language, a washing machine including geometric structures configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained within the washing machine during a spin cycle. The Examiner argued that Guinibert, Hyman, and Dunlap each disclose the basket having a cylindrical housing and the plurality of geometric structures (ribs). Applicants submit that none of these references teach the geometric structures being configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in a washing machine.

Guinibert teaches a clothes dryer having a cylindrical drum having a drum skin portion supported by vanes. The vanes provide additional rigidity to the drum structure

Serial no. 10/741, 322
Response to Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007
Page 9

and assist with even distribution of laundry load during operation. *See*, Guinibert, col. 18, lines 55-61. Hyman teaches a tumbler type dryer with a rotary drum having baffles that tumble the clothes as the drum is rotated. *See*, Hyman, col. 2, lines 47-53. As can be seen, both Guinibert and Hyman teach geometric structures like vanes or baffles in a clothes dryer. Further, neither Guinibert nor Hyman disclose or suggest geometric structures for reducing a residual moisture content of an article.

Dunlap teaches a washing apparatus with a wash basket having flexible vanes. The submerged fabrics in the wash basket are engaged by and are tumbled within the wash basket by the vanes. *See*, Dunlap, col. 2, lines 35-37 and col.3, lines 24-26. Again, Dunlap does not teach geometric structures that are configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in the washing apparatus during a spin cycle.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 8, 16 and 25 are patentable over Guinibert, Hyman and Dunlap. Applicants submit that claims 11-13, 15, 19-24 and 28-29 depend from independent claims 8, 16 or 25 and are similarly allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 6, 9, 17 and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guinibert and Dunlap. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art in view of Baird (US Patent No. 2,296,267).

Applicants submit that claims 5-6 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejections to these claims moot. Further, as claims 9-10, 17 and 30-34 depend directly or indirectly from claims 8, 16 or 25, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8, 16 and 25.

Serial no. 10/741, 322
Response to Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007
Page 10

New Claims 35-37

Independent claim 35 recites a washing machine. The washing machine includes a cabinet, a wash basket rotatably mounted in the cabinet, the wash basket having a bottom and an inner wall and an agitator disposed in the wash basket and configured to agitate an article and a liquid in the wash basket. The washing machine also includes a plurality of rigid geometric structures fixedly attached to the inner wall of the wash basket and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall.

Claims 36-37 are further directed to the geometric structures being configured to reduce a residual moisture content of the article. For example, as emphasized in claim 36, the plurality of geometric structures are configured to reduce the residual moisture content of the article as a function of at least a height of the geometric structure, or a spacing between the geometric structures, or an orientation of the geometric structure, or combinations thereof. Moreover, as recited in claim 37, the geometric structures have a textured surface area for reducing the residual moisture content of the article.

Applicants submit that at the very least, cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest geometric structures configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in the washing machine. Furthermore, the cited references do not teach geometric structures that are rigidly attached to inner wall of a wash basket of the washing machine.

Serial no. 10/741, 322
Response to Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007
Page 11

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 09 2007

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/9/07



Jason K. Klindtworth
Reg. No. 47,211

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A65
Schenectady, New York 12301
Telephone : (518) 387-7360